



Minutes for Membership Meeting September 21, 2021

Attendees: Bill Hass, Marge Nieuwenhuis, Dennis Wong, Arline Gertzoff, Barbara Jay, Joan Hass, Aye Aye Thant, Michaela MacColl, Derick Demarche, Mary Keane, Melinda McMillen, Franco Becci.

Bill Hass opened the meeting at 2:35.

AGENDA

1. September 23rd - Meet and Greet event

Marge shouted out to the vendors Mystic Market and Greens Farms Liquor. Anticipated expenses are under a \$1000, including swag/mugs. Dan Woog's shout out to Aye Aye Thant's message of peace also promoted the event. Here's the link: <https://06880danwoog.com/tag/ayeye-thant/>

Those signed up to setup should arrive at 4:00. We have 44 plus guests signed up. Bill distributed handout that we will have for the event.

2. October 25th UN Day events in area towns

- Westport: Bill Hass is arranging ceremony on Oct 25, 3:30, program at town hall. Will read the Secretary General's message, flag raising, Flags on bridge will go up Friday – Tuesday.
- Weston: Marge Nieuwenhuis is working with the First Selectman and the Superintendent of Schools will attend. 9 – 10 AM
- Norwalk – Derick Demarche is arranging a ceremony at 10 – 10:30, City Hall, Mayor, declaration.
- Stamford – Franco Becchi has spoken with the mayor, a brief ceremony to raise the flag.
- Trumbull – Mary Keane – in touch with the school. Chorus and first selectman and raising the flag. UN We Believe group – debates. MK will advise re time.

Dennis asked how can we have more impact on our towns. There was a discussion about ways to increase visibility. Aye Aye asked how do we promote the event before it occurs? We want to make community aware ahead of time. Some ideas were to have UN flag at train stations. Lawn signs? Possibly have small programs ahead of UN Day.



3. Cybersecurity program - update
Bill is in touch with Jim Himes office and an expert from UN Working Group on Global Information Technology Guidelines. We cannot use the town auditorium. Bill is checking with the library but we might have to do a virtual event. Perhaps a webinar?

4. Refugee project/library program with speaker on Congo – Tuesday November 9th 7 -8:00

<https://westportlibrary.org/event/those-we-throw-away-are-diamonds/>

Our responsibility is to promote the event, and WLIB has specifically asked us to try and get people to come in person.

There was discussion about other groups (Rotary, CIRI and IRIS) and their work on Afghan refugees resettlement. 300 people over the next three months, arrange housing, financial assistance, tutoring, advising financing/budgeting, job assistance.

5. Establishment of Membership Committee

Aye Aye, Dennis, Melinda all volunteered. Arline as Membership Chair will coordinate – contact her at mgertzoff@snet.net with your availability.

There being no further business, Bill adjourned the meeting at 4:45. The next meeting will be on October 20th in a venue to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Michaela MacColl
Acting Secretary